

## **UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS – March 1, 1008**

Call to Order: The regular business meeting of the Unified Arizona Veterans called to order at 10:00 a.m. with proper ceremonies. The roll call revealed that all officers were present and a quorum was established. The minutes of the previous were accepted as written and the Treasurer's report was accepted by a motion by Mel Brody, seconded and carried.

Introductions: Annie Loyd and Dorian Bond were guests of Vice-Chairman Brody. Tony Tiedemann and Tim Tiedemann are from Loved Ones Lost.

### **Reports**

ADVS Director Gen. Maxon reported on the following topics :

- The Governor's Task Force made several recommendations outside of the five that were discussed at the last meeting including property tax exemptions and pull tabs for veterans organizations.
- A new Veteran Business Advocate Group (VBAG) has been formed in the Department and will offer guidance and opportunist for small businesses. One in seven small businesses are owned by a veteran.
- The recent Stand-down served approximately 500 veterans.
- A federal VA grant has been approved by the VA for expansion of the unit dining rooms at the State Veteran Home.
- The VA recently completed a survey of the home. No health care issues were found.
- Issues with the State budget continue. There is a hiring freeze in affect that impacts all cabinet agencies. An exemption is in place for nursing care. ADVS has asked for exemptions for housekeeping staff at the Home and one Veterans Benefits Counselor.
- A benefits expo will be held in Miami, AZ April 19th.

Legislative report: Bob Delker reported on the following:

- The extension for the \$10 million allocation for the Tucson nursing home is moving forward through the state legislature.
- The legislative committee recommends that UAV create a state legislative award. The concept was accepted by consensus.
- Discussion was initiated regarding concern over the "Support our Troops" license plate (HB 2023) making its way through the legislature. Proceeds from the plate will go to a company outside of Arizona and the plate will compete with the Freedom plate already in existence. By consensus, the Chairman will write a letter to the legislature advising of these concerns.

Wayne Ellis, National Cemetery Director advised that the carillon is complete and will be dedicated April 19th. Construction is progressing in Prescott.

### **Good of the Order**

- Annie Loyd is an Independent candidate for the US House of Representatives for Arizona District 3. Ms. Loyd came as a guest to the UAV meeting to introduce herself.
- The Navy Band will perform a free concert at Pinnacle High School on March 3rd.
- The Federally Employed Women will officer a 2-day workshop on skills training
- The Voices Take Flight concert is March 8th at First Assembly of God church
- Wounded Warriors will meet March 19th at Enchilada's Resturant.
- Mel Brody announced that military memorabilia is requested for the planned veterans' museum.
- The Massing of the Colors will be hosted by MOWW at the Sun Bowl on April 13th at 2:00 p.m.

The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 with proper ceremonies to meet again April 5th.

Donna Adams, Secretary